

Amendment  
Serial No. 09/597,386

Docket No. US008621

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 17, 2005. Claims 2, 6, 11, and 17 are now the independent Claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-9, 11, and 13-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have added the limitations of Claim 1 to Claims 2 and 7, as well as added the limitations of Claim 10 to Claims 11 and 17. Applicants respectfully believe these amendments render the § 102(b) rejection over Upadrasta (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,820; hereinafter "Upadrasta") moot and requests its withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentable. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Please charge any additional fees which may now or in the future be required in this application, including extension of time fees and fees for claims added upon amendment, but excluding the issue fee unless explicitly requested to do so, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

For all the foregoing reasons, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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